

Code Proficiency

In the unlikely event that someone sends a distress message, especially from the high seas, and the only means available is CW, there should be radio operators capable of recognizing and copying such a message. It would seem reasonable to expect from Extra Class operators a minimum Morse proficiency if for no other reason than for health, welfare, and public safety. An Extra Class operator should, by virtue of that highest level of expertise in radio communication, be able to assist in an emergency where CW is the only means of communication. Operators that don't feel that Morse proficiency is important enough to learn can be satisfied being General Class operators where it is not expected of them. Most of the Amateur Radio activity takes place in the General Class voice portions of the bands anyway.

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